United Nations S/PV.4440

Security Council

Fifty-sixth year

Provisional

4440th meeting

Wednesday, 19 December 2001, 6.20 p.m.

New York

President	Mr. Ouane	(Mali)
Members	Bangladesh	Mr. Amin
	China	Mr. Chen Xu
	Colombia	Mr. Ocaziones
	France	Ms. D'Achon
	Ireland	Mr. Corr
	Jamaica	Miss Durrant
	Mauritius	Mr. Gokool
	Norway	Mr. Strømmen
	Russian Federation	Mr. Granovsky
	Singapore	Ms. Foo
	Tunisia	Ms. Achouri
	Ukraine	Mr. Krokhmal
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Ms. MacKenzie
	United States of America	Ms. Connelly

Agenda

Letter dated 30 April 2001 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2001/434).

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

01-70665 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 6.15 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Letter dated 30 April 2001 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2001/434)

The President (*spoke in French*). The Security Council will now continue its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Following consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council has considered, during its public meetings of 14 May and 18 December 2001, the report of the Inter-Agency Mission to West Africa (S/2001/434).

"The Security Council welcomes with satisfaction the above report and fully supports initiatives taken with a view to implementing its recommendations. It welcomes, in particular, the establishment of the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa to, inter alia, ensure the strengthening of harmonization and coordination of the activities of the United Nations system in an integrated regional perspective and to the development of a fruitful partnership with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), other subregional organizations and international and national actors, including civil society.

"The Security Council emphasizes that greater subregional integration must remain a key goal for the United Nations system in the search for lasting solutions to the conflicts in West Africa and to the human suffering to which these give rise. It stresses the need to further strengthen the capacities of ECOWAS in the areas which should enable it to act as the engine of subregional integration and increased cooperation with the United Nations system.

"The Security Council underlines the importance of taking steps to develop cooperation and coordination among the intergovernmental bodies and entities of the United Nations system which can influence the situation in West Africa, and expresses its intention to consider measures to coordinate its action with these bodies and entities.

"The Security Council emphasizes the need to maintain regional peace and stability and, in that connection, welcomes the progress made in the Mano River Union area. It also emphasizes the need to see to the effective implementation of the confidence-building and cooperation measures agreed on by Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone and strongly encourages these three countries to do their utmost to hold a summit meeting of their heads of State and to ensure its success. It commends the role of the civil society and particularly the Mano River Union Women's Peace Network for their instrumental role in facilitating dialogue among the leaders of the region.

"The Security Council also emphasizes the need to strengthen the capacity of ECOWAS to monitor and to stem the illicit flows of small arms and the establishment of militia. In this connection, it welcomes the extension for a period of three years, starting on 5 July 2001, of the Moratorium on the Importation, Exportation and Manufacture of Small Arms and Light Weapons in West Africa. It appeals to the international community to provide appropriate financial assistance to the Programme for Coordination and Assistance for Security and Development and to the national mechanisms involved in the fight against the proliferation of small arms in West Africa.

"The Security Council also emphasizes the urgent need to solve the problem of refugees and displaced persons in the subregion by permitting voluntary returns as soon as possible, under acceptable security conditions.

"The Security Council reiterates its condemnation of the use, by State and non-State actors, of children as combatants, in violation of the relevant international instruments on the rights of the child and the Accra Declaration on

War-Affected Children in West Africa and the related Plan of Action. It calls for the immediate demobilization of all child soldiers.

"The Security Council welcomes the holding in New York, on 16 November 2001, of the fifth meeting of the United Nations-ECOWAS-Sierra Leone coordination mechanism and the progress made in the peace process in Sierra Leone. It appeals to the international community for substantial financial assistance for the programme for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants and other peace-consolidating activities in Sierra Leone.

"The Council welcomes the holding of the twenty-fifth conference of heads of State and of Government of ECOWAS. It pays tribute to that organization for its major contribution to the restoration of peace, stability, democracy and development in West Africa.

"The Council will remain actively seized of this matter."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2001/38.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 6.25 p.m.